

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims 1-6:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing an aqueous solution of free hydroxylamine (HA) using simultaneous countercurrent treatment of ~~a solution of an aqueous~~ HA salt solution with ammonia or ammonia water at a process temperature, separation of the HA solution obtained by ~~distilling~~distillation into aqueous solutions of HA and a salt fraction under a pressure above the atmospheric pressure, reconcentration by ~~distilling~~distillation of the aqueous HA salt solution in the countercurrent with a strip medium in a reactive distillation column with a liquid-phase evaporator, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ the stripping medium is a mixture of steam and a non-condensable inert gas and in that the process temperature is controlled at a defined pressure by the quantity of non-condensable inert gas at the column inlet.
2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ nitrogen is used as the non-condensable inert gas.
3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of~~characterized in that~~ controlling the process temperature includes~~by~~ increasing the portion of non-condensable inert gas to results in a drop in temperature ~~and controlling the process temperature by decreasing the portion of said gas results in an increase in temperature.~~

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4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein characterized ~~in that~~ the process is performed at column pressures in the range from 1.05 to 2.5 bara, preferably from 1.1 to 1.8 bara.

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein characterized ~~in that~~ the weight of the non-condensable inert gas is 0.44 to 5.8 times, preferably 1.8 to 5.4 times the weight of the feeding quantity ~~(aqueous solution of HA salt)~~.

6. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of controlling the process temperature includes decreasing the portion of said gas to result in an increase in temperature.